



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Public Utility Commission

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February 26, 2008

Commission Secretary
Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: 03-0123 Docket; DA No. 08-60

On February 19, 2008, we received a copy of comments filed from Mr. Fishlen regarding Oregon's Telecommunications Relay Services (OTRS) Certification Application. His comments were specifically related to speech-to-speech (STS). Mr. Fishlen's comments seem somewhat paradoxical in that he asks the FCC to recognize STS as a *successful* program that requires additional funding to assist educating consumers. However, he goes on to say that currently STS appears to be violating the spirit of section 225 [of the Telecommunications Act of 1996].

The Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) affirms its belief that our State meets the functional equivalency mandate as documented in our TRS State Certification Application. This is supported by our outreach efforts. During 2001 and 2002 we launched a successful campaign which included having speech language pathologists conduct outreach and educate other professionals, consumers and service providers about STS and Hearing Carry Over.

In 2005, Mr. Colin Portnuff became a representative of the speech impaired community on the OPUC's Telecommunication Devices Access Program Advisory Committee. Deprived of his speech due to a medical condition, Mr. Portnuff supported our expansion of the type of equipment available for persons with various speech disabilities who need access to the OTRS. Consequently, we introduced two additional pieces of adaptive telecommunications equipment. With the advice and expertise of a respected speech-language pathologist, we plan to incorporate alternative augmentative communication devices into our equipment distribution program this summer.

We continue to conduct outreach to cultural, minority, senior, deaf, hard of hearing, and speech disabled populations with STS information. The outreach includes website postings, links or newsletter advertisement in community based organizations. In addition, we have brochures available in English and Spanish to help educate the public about the OTRS. We also publish a biannual OTRS newsletter to increase public awareness.



We rely on customer feedback, such as Mr. Fishlen's. This feedback is reviewed and used to continually enhance our services. We invite Mr. Fishlen to contact us at any time to provide input. The State of Oregon is committed to meeting the functional equivalency mandate in all forms of the telecommunications relay service. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the TRS Contract Administrator, Jon Cray, at 503-373-1400 or via e-mail at jon.cray@state.or.us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Willis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rick" and last name "Willis" clearly distinguishable.

Rick Willis, Executive Director
Public Utility Commission of Oregon

Cc: Michael Fishlen